NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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TWO NEW TOLL LANES AT THE BEDFORD TOLL PLAZA ON THE F.E. EVERETT TURNPIKE TO OPEN THURSDAY

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces the planned opening of two new toll lanes will take place Thursday, January 29, 2004 at the Bedford Toll Plaza on the F.E. Everett Turnpike.

These new toll lanes will increase the total number of available lanes at the Bedford Plaza from 10 to 12. Motorists will now be able to use seven lanes southbound during morning commuting hours (7:00 am to 9:00 am), and seven lanes northbound during afternoon commuting hours (3:00 pm to 7:00 pm) from Monday through Friday.

Each new toll lane can process an additional 350 to 400 vehicles per hour. Motorists with exact change are also encouraged to use the staffed lanes as well as the "Exact Change" lanes if appropriate in order to avoid unnecessary waiting.

Audley Construction, Inc. of Bow, New Hampshire is the contractor for the new toll lanes construction project, which began in September 2003.